UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MUSIC

Electroacoustic Music Concert 2

Prepared by Dennis Patrick

Sunday, March 19, 2017 at 5:00 PM
Walter Hall, 80 Queen's Park

PROGRAM

Turenas (1972)	John Chowning
Afternoon of a Faun (1976)	Debussy –arranged by Isao Tomita
Kontakte (1958-60)	Karlheinz Stockhausen

Radka Hanáková, piano
Jonny Smith, percussion

John Chowning (1934) is known for having discovered the FM synthesis algorithm in 1967. In FM (frequency modulation) synthesis, both the carrier frequency and the modulation frequency are within the audio band. In essence, the amplitude and frequency of one waveform modulates the frequency of another waveform producing a resultant waveform that can be periodic or non-periodic depending upon the ratio of the two frequencies. Chowning's breakthrough allowed for simple—in terms of process—yet rich sounding timbres, which synthesized 'metal striking' or 'bell like' sounds, and which seemed incredibly similar to real percussion. In 1974 Stanford University licensed the discovery to Yamaha in Japan, with whom Chowning worked in developing a family of synthesizers and electronic organs. In 1983, Yamaha made their first commercially successful digital FM synthesizer, the DX7. Another important aspect of Chowning's work was the simulated motion of sound through physical space. In 1972 he was first able to create the illusion of a continuous 360-degree space using only four speakers, in his composition **Turenas**.

Is**ao Tomita** (1932 – 5 May 2016) known simply as Tomita, was a Japanese music composer, regarded as one of the pioneers of electronic music and space music, and as one of the most famous producers of analog synthesizer arrangements. In addition to creating note-by-note realizations, Tomita made extensive use of the sound design capabilities of his instrument, using synthesizers to create new sounds to accompany and enhance his electronic realizations of acoustic instruments. He also made effective use of analog music sequencers and the Mellotron and featured futuristic science fiction themes, while laying the foundations for synth-pop music and trance-like rhythms. Many of his albums are electronic versions and adaptations of famous classical music pieces, and he received four Grammy Award nominations for his 1974 album Snowflakes Are Dancing.

Karlheinz Stockhausen (1928 – 2007) is widely acknowledged as one of the most important but also controversial composers of the 20th and early 21st centuries. He is known for his groundbreaking work in electronic music, aleatory (controlled chance) in serial composition, and musical spatialization.
Kontakte was realized at the electronic-music studio in Cologne with the assistance of Gottfried Michael Koenig. The title refers both to contacts between an instrumental and electronic sound groups and to contacts between self-sufficient, strongly characterized moments. As a work composed in four-channels, it also refers to contacts between various forms of spatial movement. The composition exists in two forms: (1) for electronic sounds alone, and (2) for electronic sounds, piano, and percussion.
"In the preparatory work for my composition Kontakte, I found, for the first time, ways to bring all properties [i.e., timbre, pitch, intensity, and duration] under a single control" , thereby realizing a longstanding goal of total serialism. The most famous moment, at the very center of the work, is a potent illustration of these connections: a high, bright, slowly wavering pitch descends in several waves, becoming louder as it gradually acquires a snarling timbre, and finally passes below the point where it can be heard any longer as a pitch. As it crosses this threshold, it becomes evident that the sound consists of a succession of pulses, which continue to slow until they become a steady beat. With increasing reverberation, the individual pulses become transformed into tones once again.

Radka Hanáková, a first prize winner of the International Schubert Competition in Jeseník, is an accomplished and versatile solo pianist and chamber musician. She has performed at festivals throughout Austria, Poland, Canada and Czech Republic, where she has also appeared as a soloist with numerous orchestras. Among her significant experience includes a collaboration with The National Theatre in Prague. In masterclasses she had the honour to play for such artists as Leon Fleisher, Anton Kuerti, Richard Good, Julian Martin, Marc Durand, Andrzej Jasinski, Avedis Kouyoumdjian and Ronan O´Hora, among others.
Ms. Hanáková has attended and became a stipendist of prestigious summer performance festivals, such as Summer Academy “Prague, Wien, Budapest” in Sommering (Austria) and "Banff Summer Music Festlival" in Banff (Canada), in addition to numerous festivals in the Czech Republic.
Currently pursuing a DMA degree at the University of Toronto under professor Jamie Parker, Radka already graduated from The Glenn Gould School in Toronto where she studied with John Perry and David Louie. Back in Czech Republic, she achieved a Master of Music from the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. She also attended a year study internship at the Karol Szymannowski Academy of Music in Katowice, Poland.

J**onny Smith** is an avid performer of new and contemporary music. His solo concerts have been described as “phenomenal and surprising, even from a performer who is already known for eclectic and diverse performances.” (M. Wightman, The Argosy). Jonny has worked with a number of Canadian composers on developing new works for solo percussion including Kevin Lau, Riho Maimets, Caleb Chan, and Stephanie Orlando. In 2012 he was awarded a “Launch Pad for Emerging Talent in the Arts” grant from the U of T Arts Council for commissioning and presenting a concert of contemporary percussion music. Jonny is also a co-founder and active member of two Toronto-based ensembles: Taktus, a marimba duo, and Spectrum, a percussion quartet. Taktus released its debut album, “Glass Houses for Marimba” in July 2015. It has been nominated for an East Coast Music Award in the category of Classical Recording of the Year. It was also included in the CBC’s Top 10 Canadian Classical Albums of 2015. In addition to his work with Taktus and Spectrum, Jonny also performs regularly with the alternative/indie band Barbarosa who just released their second album, “The Eye of the Rabbit” in November 2016. Jonny is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Toronto where he has studied under Russell Hartenberger, Beverley Johnston, John Rudolph, and Mark Duggan.